

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 5 AUG 1954

SUBJECT Borislav Petroleum Field/Refineries

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRENO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIRESUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

DATE OF

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. From early 1939 [] the Borislav oil field [] was eight kilometers south and southeast of the city of Drogobych. The oil field was shaped like a cucumber and covered a radius of 20 square kilometers. 25X1
2. The entire field consisted of approximately two thousand oil wells. Of this total only one thousand oil wells were active. The total daily production of the active oil wells on a 24 hour basis was 50 thousand tons. 25X1
3. "Crude oil" was pumped out and it was either put into storage tanks, shipped or piped to the refineries which were in Drogobych. Borislav, a city of 50 thousand, did not have any refineries.
4. Alongside each oil well there was some sort of a storage tank. There were individuals who owned one to three oil wells and they would band together and have a 10-ton to a 100-ton tank for storage. However, large oil firms had their own storage tanks up to a thousand ton capacity.
5. The large oil firms had two or three pipelines which led to the refineries. Each pipe was about 12 inches in diameter. They were four to five feet underground. In winter the ground would freeze solid to a depth of three to four meters. The pipes were old casings that had been used in drilling or steel pipes which were of poor quality.
6. Small oil well owners either brought their oil to the refineries in horse-drawn wagons with cistern tanks or sold their oil direct to the large oil firms. Many small owners became wealthy during this time.
7. In Drogobych there were the Galicia, Malo Polska, and Premier refineries which were French controlled; the Dross refinery, which was US controlled; and the Polmin refinery which was Polish controlled.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION

ORR EV

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

8. The Polmin refinery was the largest. Out of the 50 thousand ton daily output of oil, Polmin would take one-third, Malo Polska and Galicia each would take one-fourth, and the remainder would be taken by the others.
9. There were no turbodrills used or available in this area. [] a "ydar" 25X1 type drilling method which was a continuous jabbing into the ground. It took [] from eight to nine months to drill a 12 hundred meter deep well, if [] had no breakdowns.
10. In 1940 the Soviets attempted to use a rotating drilling method, but due to the rock formation in the Carpathian mountainous area it was impossible. However, they used the rotating method elsewhere where the ground was softer.
11. There were about two hundred drilling rigs in the Borislav oil field. A US firm, "Oil Well Supply," furnished 50% of the rigs and the other 50% was supplied by "Wirth-Wuelfield," a German firm.
12. During the Polish regime, the oil field equipment was poor. In 1939 there were only about 15 holes drilled in this area.
13. There were about two hundred to three hundred pumping stations. Some of the oil firms would have about 12 pumps each. A small oil well owner would also have some sort of a small pump.
14. The Polmin, Galicia, and the Malo Polska refineries had cracking units, but only on a laboratory scale.
15. During the Polish regime, there was no sabotage, shortage of personnel or material but there were after the Soviets took over. The Soviets [] were unable to supply [] any materials, but [] still had a quota to fulfill and [] get the materials; they didn't care how or where. 25X1
16. At this time the Soviets also felt that they were not in position to work the oil field and permitted the private companies to continue working all the oil fields for the time being.
17. Under the Polish law which was carried over from Austrian days, the land owner owned the mineral rights and a company would work his land. The company could purchase the mineral rights from the owner, but pay the owner a 15 to 17% of the gross, to be payable in US dollars. After the Soviets assumed control, the oil fields were confiscated by the state and the land-owners lost everything and no remuneration was given whatsoever.
18. Before the oil fields in the Borislav area began to be exploited, years ago, the people found oil in rivers or streams, on the surface of the ground, streets and even in their own back yards. They would take tufts of horse tail, tie them together, and pull the tufts through the oil. They then squeezed the oil from the tufts into a bucket and used the oil for their lamps or trading purposes.

-end-

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1